

Message Text

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43

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ISO-00 SS-06 NSC-07 AID-01 DRC-01

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R 281840Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7313

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OUAGADOUGOU 2434

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF CODEL DIGGS

1. CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO UPPER VOLTA NOVEMBER 26-27 WAS
IN OUR VIEW USEFUL TO BOTH SIDES.

2. CODEL OBTAINED FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF NORTHERN
REGION OF UPPER VOLTA THAT IS HARDEST HIT BY CONTINUING
DROUGHT (GOROM-GOROM), WITNESSED MALIAN REFUGEES SCRAT-
CHING OUT SURVIVAL ON MILLET FIELDS ABANDONED BY VOLTANS
WHO HAD MOVED SOUTH IN DESPERATION, OBSERVED REQUIREMENT
FOR STORAGE FACILITIES AND ROAD REPAIRS TO MINIMIZE
POSSIBLE NEED FOR ANOTHER EXPENSIVE AIRDROP EXERCISE
NEXT SUMMER, WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY US ASSISTANCE
EFFORTS TO DATE AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, WAS STRUCK
BY POVERTY OF VOLTAN BUREAUCRATIC RESOURCES AND INADE-
QUACIES OF VOLTAN PLANNING SERVICES, AND WAS GRATIFIED
BY WARMTH AND SINCERITY OF VOLTAN APPRECIATION FOR US
AID AND FOR RECENT RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AND
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SAHEL MISSION IN U.S.

3. VOLTANS WERE HEARTENED BY EVIDENT SINCERITY CODEL'S INTEREST IN SAHELIAN DROUGHT PROBLEM AND BY OPTIMISM DIGGS EXPRESSED CONCERNING PASSAGE PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS RECESS OF DOLS 25 MILLION SUPPLEMENTARY AUTHORISATION FOR SAHEL AID. DIGGS MADE POINT OF STRESSING INCLUSION IN BILL OF LANGUAGE PLEDGING LONGER TERM SUPPORT.

4. HIGHLIGHTS OF CODEL'S ACTIVITIES WERE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA, PRIME MINISTER, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADERS, ALONG WITH VISIT BY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT TO GOROM-GOROM. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES OF GOROM-GORM CITED URGENT NEED GET STARTED ON ROAD REPAIR PROJECTS AND ON CONSTRUCTION OF GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES. (BOTH THESE REQUESTS INCLUDED AMONG FEI TASKFORCE RECOMMENDATIONS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW IN AID/W).

5. CODEL WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT NEITHER MINAG DAKOURE NOR CILSS SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR KONATE WERE IN OUAGADOUGOU DURING CODEL VISIT. WE MUST ALL CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THAT CILSS IS STILL AN EXTREMELY FRAIL REED. NO FIRMS PLANS YET IN EVIDENCE OF STAFF SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT THAT GERMAN GRAND FUNDS ARE REPORTEDLY TO FINANCE.

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